

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /117 W

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R 300237Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2087

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 16851

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, ELAB, ILO, SN

SUBJECT: VISIT OF DANIEL HOROWITZ, US ILO REPRESENTATIVE

1. SUMMARY: HOROWITZ, ACCOMPANIED BY THE AMBASSADOR AND
LABATT PRESENTED THE U.S. VIEWS ABOUT THE ILO STATE OF AFFAIRS
TO A GENERALLY UNRESPONSIVE ACTING SECRETARY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS, JOSE INGLES. LABOR SECRETARY BLAS OPLE EXERCISED
THIRD WORLD CONCERNS FOR THE ILO AND WAS GENERALLY FAVORABLE
TO THE NEED TO REFORM THE ILO. HOWEVER, HE WOULD NOT COMMIT

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THE RP VOTE SAYING "WE PREFER TO BE A MODERATING FORCE."

TRADE UNION LEADERS WERE FORCEFUL IN EXPRESSING SUPPORT

FOR THE NEED FOR REFORM. THE VIEWS OF EMPLOYERS COULD NOT BE OBTAINED DUE TO LACK OF TIME. HOWEVER, WE WERE ASSURED THAT THE ORGANIZED EMPLOYERS WOULD CONSIDER OUR VIEWS. END SUMMARY.

2. HOROWITZ, ACCOMPANIED BY THE AMBASSADOR AND LABATT, SPENT AN HOUR EXPLAINING TO ACTING SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, JOSE INGLES, THE MANNER IN WHICH THE ILO AND ITS GOVERNING BODY CONDUCTED ITS AFFAIRS AS COMPARED TO HOW ITS AFFAIRS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE CONDUCTED ACCORDING TO ITS OWN RULES. TO ILLUSTRATE, HOROWITZ PRESENTED THE FOUR METTERS OF FUNDAMENTAL CONCERN MENTIONED IN THE KISSINGER LETTER. AFTER CITING THE FOUR AREAS OF MISCONDUCT BY THE ILO AND EXPLAINING THE STRUCTURE OF OUR ILO PRESIDENTIAL CABINET COMMITTEE, HE REQUESTED THE SUPPORT OF THE GOP FOR OUR PROPOSALS TO CORRECT THE DETERIORATING SITUATION. SECRETARY INGLES WAS GENERALLY UNRESPONSIVE. HOWEVER, HE DID STATE THAT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE ILO ALSO APPEARS TO BE HAPPENING TO THE UNESCO. THE AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT THE ILO PROBLEM COULD BE THE HARBINGER OF WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN WITH OTHER SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF THE UN. INGLES POINTED OUT THAT THE GOP POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF THE POSSIBLE US WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ILO WOULD HAVE TO WAIT FOR A RECOMMENDATION FROM SECRETARY OF LABOR BLAS OPLE.

3. THE ONE-HOUR AND FOURTY-FIVE MINUTES BREAKFAST MEETING WITH LABOR SECRETARY BLAS OPLE WAS QUITE DIFFERENT. OPLE HAS BEEN SECRETARY OF LABOR FOR TEN YEARS AND IS A RECENT (1975) PRESIDENT OF THE ILO ANNUAL CONFERENCE. OPLE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE U.S. SHOULD STAY IN THE ILO. IT WAS, HE SAID, IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THE PHILIPPINES AND THE U.S., THAT THE U.S. REMAIN IN THE ILO. OPLE EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR THE POLARIZATION THAT EXISTS IN THE ILO. HE CITED A MEETING WHEREIN THE RP WAS IN SUPPORT OF A POINT OF VIEW IDENTIFIED WITH THE U.S. AND THE VENEZUELA DELEGATE REFERRED TO THE RP AS THE "TROJAN HORSE" IN THE MEETING. OPLE SAID THE U.S.
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CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE ILO STANDING RULES SO AS TO PROHIBIT EXTRANEIOUS POLITICAL ISSUES THAT CANNOT BE SOLVED BY THE ILO FROM COMING BEFORE THE CONFERENCE COULD ONLY FURTHER POLARIZE THE ILO AND THUS MAKE TI MORE DIFFICULT TO CONDUCT BUSINESS. HOROWITZ REMINDED OPLE THAT UNLESS A WAY IS FOUND TO TURN THE ILO FROM ITS PATH OF SELF-DESTRUCTION, THE ILO WOULD HAVE TO GO ON WITHOUT THE U.S. OPLE STATED THAT A U.S. WITHDRAWAL WOULD LEAVE A CONSIDERABLE FINANCIAL HOLE IN THE ILO BUDGET. HE SPECULATED THAT

SOME UPWARD FINANCIAL ADJUSTMENT COULD BE MADE BY THE COUNTRIES REMAINING IN THE ILO AND THE UNDP MIGHT BE CALLED ON TO SUPPORT ILO. OPLE ASKED IF THE NEW YORK TIMES (ABE RASKIN) STORY ABOUT THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FORMING THEIR OWN ILO WAS TRUE. HOROWITZ REMINDED POLE THAT HE MUST KNOW BY NOW THAT NEWSPAPER STORIES LEFT A LOT TO BE DESIRED WHERE FACT AND REALITY WERE CONCERNED. OPLE STATED THAT THE ILO FORCED LABOR CONVENTION WAS PROVING TO BE UNFAIR TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THAT WISHED TO BE INNOVATIVE WHERE STANDARDS, LARGELY DEVELOPED IN THE WEST, WERE CONCERNED. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SOME OF THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES WOULD WELCOME A U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO IF ONLY TO HAVE A CHANCE TO FILL ILO JOBS LEFT VACANT BY AMERICANS. OPLE REGRETTED NOT HAVING A GOP REPRESENTATIVE ON THE ILO GOVERNING BOARD. BEING PRESIDENT OF THE 1975 CONFERENCE DETERRED HIM FROM NOMINATING A FILIPINO FOR THE GOVERNING BOARD BECAUSE HE DID NOT WANT TO APPEAR GREEDY. HE SAID THAT ASEAN WAS A BLOCK IN THE ILO WITH SOME INFLUENCE ON ILO MATTERS. ASEAN LABOR MINISTERS USUALLY TRY TO ACT IN UNISON. OPLE EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR THE U.S. HE WAS GENERALLY IN FAVOR OF THE NEED FOR REFORM. HE CONCEDED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT AND MANY OTHER GOVERNMENTS WERE UNHAPPY ABOUT THE WAY THE ILO WAS STRAYING FROM THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH IT WAS CREATED. HE WAS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MANILA 16851

WELL AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THE VIOLATIONS OF ILO
PROCEDURE COULD ONE DAY BE TURNED AGAINST THE RP OR
SOME OTHER ASIAN NATION. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD DO
WHATEVER HE COULD TO INFLUENCE A RETURN TO PROPER
PROCEDURE. HOWEVER, HE GAVE NO CLEAR INDICATION OF
THE EXTENT, IF IN FACT, HE WOULD WORK TOWARD LINING
UP ASEAN NATIONS IN SUPPORT OF REFORM OF THE ILO.
WHEN ASKED IF WE COULD COUNT ON THE RP VOTE, OPLE
REPLIED, "WE PREFER TO BE A MODERATING FORCE" AND
WOULD PURSUE THAT COURSE.
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4. HOROWITZ ACCOMPANIED BY LABATT ATTENDED THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE TUCP EXECUTIVE BOARD. PRESIDENT
BERTA OCA AND GENERAL SECRETARY KITA MENDOZA, THE LATTER
AN ICFTU WORKERS MEMBER OF THE ILO GOVERNING BOARD,
WERE FRANK AND FORCEFUL IN EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR
THE U.S. POSITION ON THE NEED FOR ILO REFORM. THE
BOARD IN GENERAL REFLECTED THE ATTITUDE EXPRESSED BY
ITS OFFICERS. AFTER HOROWITZ GAVE A THOROUGH
PRESENTATION OF THE U.S. POSITION, ONE BOARD MEMBER
REQUESTED THAT WE GIVE THE BOARD MEMBERS A COPY OF
THE KISSINGER LETTER.

5. A MEETING WITH DANTE LIBAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF THE EMPLOYERS CONFEDERATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (ECOP),
REVEALED THAT H. KARASAKI, ILO REGIONAL DIRECTOR
WHO IS ATTENDING AN ICFTU/ILO MEETING IN MANILA, SPOKE
TO AN ECOP DIRECTORS' MEETING AT WHICH HE CONVEYED THE
VIEW THAT SINCE LAST JUNE'S ILO ANNUAL CONFERENCE,
THINGS WERE MUCH BETTER. HOROWITZ INFORMED LIBAN THAT
NOTHING HAD TAKEN PLACE THAT WOULD INSURE REFORM OF
RECENT ILO OBJECTIONAL PRACTICES. AFTER HOROWITZE

COMPLETED HIS PRESENTATION, LIBAN EXPRESSED THE WISH THAT THE ECOP EXECUTIVE BOARD COULD HEAR THE U.S. ILO POSITION AND SAID THAT THE BOARD WOULD CONSIDER THE MATTER. SINCE A MEETING COULD NOT BE ARRANGED WHILE HOROWITZ WAS HERE, LIBAN WILL HAVE TO PRESENT IT HIMSELF.

6. COMMENT: ALL MEETINGS WERE CORDIAL AND INFORMAL. INGLES IS A FISH OUT OF WATER WHERE ILO MATTERS ARE CONCERNED. HE IS ALSO PREPARING FOR RETIREMENT. OPLE BROUGHT FOUR OF HIS SENIOR LABLR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS TO THE MEETING. HE IS WELL VERSED IN ALL THE ILO ISSUES, PARTICULARLY THE VIEWS OF THE THIRD WORLD. SOME OF WHAT HE SAID TO US WAS UNDOUBTEDLY FOR HOME TEAM CONSUMPTION. HIS REFUSAL TO GIVE A VOTE IN SUPPORT OF REVERSING ILO TRENDS COULD BE FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION AND A MANIFESTATION OF THE POST VIETNAM REALITIES HE LIKE TO ENUNCIATE. ON BALANCE WE BELIEVE HE WAS LEANING IN OUR DIRECTION. THE TUCK
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IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE CONTROLLED BY THE GOP. HOWEVER, WE KNOW OF ISSUES WHERE THEY BROKE THE GOP LINE AND VOTED WITH US. DANTE LIBAN APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN SUPRISED TO LEARN THAT THE U.S. WAS NOT PLACATED BY THE GENERALLY NON-CONTROVERSIAL 1976 ANNUAL CONFERENCE.
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